

Global warming

The climate operates on a time delay.

When carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere, it takes decades—in a technical sense, millennia—for the earth to equilibrate.

This summer's fish kill was a product of warming that had become inevitable twenty or thirty years ago, and the warming that's being locked in today won't be fully felt until today's toddlers reach middle age. In effect, we are living in the climate of the past, but already we've determined the climate's future.

**Elizabeth Kolbert,
New Yorker, October 24, 2016**